

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claim 12 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 12 and 48 are pending in the application. Claim 12 has been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner in page 2 of the Office Action. Claims 11 and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 48 has been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The Examiner's new rejection of claims 11 and 27 is moot as the rejected claims have been canceled. It should be noted that the above amendments have been made solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution and are not necessitated by the Examiner's new rejections.

Claim 12 stands allowed as indicated in the Office Action.

Newly added claim 48, which is similar to allowed claim 12, is also believed patentable over the applied art of record, because the art, as admitted by the Examiner in page 5 of the Office Action, fails to disclose, teach or suggest the last limitation of claim 12 now recited in claim 48.

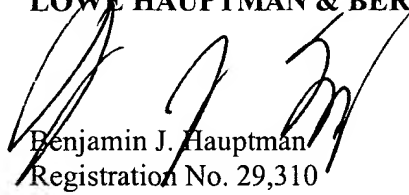
Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed/overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is hereby requested to contact the undersigned attorney, if necessary to facilitate advancement of the application.

To the extent necessary, please charge any shortage in fee due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account No. 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP



Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

Customer Number: 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
Date: February 22, 2005
BJH/KL/iyr